

Children's Cabinet

Introductory Meeting

Thursday, August 23, 2018

9:30 – 11:00 AM

*Patrick Henry Building, West Reading Room
Richmond, Virginia*

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: First Lady Pamela Northam, Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax, Secretary Daniel Carey, Secretary Brian Moran, Secretary Atif Qarni, Secretary Bettina Ring

Members Absent:

I. Welcome

The meeting convened at 9:33 AM.

The First Lady Pamela Northam introduced Lieutenant Governor Fairfax, Secretary Moran, Secretary Carey, Secretary Qarni, and Secretary Ring, and welcomed the members of the public who attended the meeting. She noted how important the health and well-being of children are to her and Governor Northam. The First Lady discussed her Back to School Tour in Southwest Virginia and the work that teachers are doing to support their students. She shared her own experience of going back to school for the first time and reminded everyone that school readiness is more than school clothes, supplies and book bags—but actually preparing students to be academically, socially and emotionally ready.

The First Lady presented the Children's Cabinet priorities:

- Early Childhood Development and School Readiness
- Nutrition and Food Security
- Systems of Care and Student Safety

The First Lady invited Jenna Conway, Chief School Readiness Officer, to present her update on Early Childhood Development and School Readiness.

II. Update from the Work Group on Early Childhood Development and School Readiness

Chief Jenna Conway discussed the importance of examining the broader early childhood landscape and noted the significance of honing in on where the group hoped to be by 2021. Chief Conway discussed the previous meeting of the work group, at which many participants agreed about that there is great potential for early childhood development and school readiness implementation in Virginia. However, participants were concerned about existing gaps. Participants discussed recent interest, investments, and accomplishments, and they expressed a desire to address system fragmentations and inequity. Chief Conway emphasized the importance of supporting communities with different needs across the Commonwealth.

III. Update from the Work Group on Nutrition and Food Security

Assistant Secretary Heidi Hertz provided an update of the previous work group meeting. Participants at the meeting conveyed how they wanted to continue their work on ending childhood hunger in Virginia. She explained how the work group dove into specific items and asked critical questions. The work group discussed what objectives were important to achieve over the next three years. Assistant Secretary Hertz noted that in addition to measuring childhood food security, the group will try to measure households' ability to provide food security to children. She explained that the work group would also concentrate on how to expand access to nutritious food for pregnant women. She discussed how promoting community-based food systems can increase access to healthy, local foods. Assistant Secretary Hertz also highlighted FEEDVA Day of Action.

IV. Update from the Work Group on Trauma-Informed Care

Deputy Secretary Gena Berger updated the Children's Cabinet on the discussions had at the previous work group meeting. She discussed research concerning trauma-informed care, in particular the Adverse Childhood Experiences study (ACEs). She noted how scientific research has now linked ACEs to 7 out of 10 of the leading causes of death (i.e. heart disease, high blood pressure, substance abuse, etc.). Deputy Secretary Berger also discussed how ACEs can be the result of systems and processes. She emphasized the need for systems of care to be trauma-informed.

Deputy Secretary Berger explained that the group was working on a definition that is broad and effective enough to be used across the spectrum. She highlighted ways in which the SAMHSA definition holds a lot of promise. Deputy Secretary Berger closed by highlighting the impact that successful efforts would have and how success can be measured.

V. Update from the Work Group on Student Safety

Secretary Moran and Secretary Qarni provided an update on the first two meetings of the Work Group on Student Safety and highlighted conversations and takeaways from the meetings.

Secretary Moran provided an overview of the first meeting, which was held on July 19, 2018. He discussed the three presentations that the group heard and engaged with, which included presentations on “The Evolution of School Safety in Virginia,” “Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety,” and “Building Safe and Supportive Schools in Virginia.” Secretary Moran also highlighted the panel of local experts that engaged in a discussion.

Secretary Qarni presented on the second meeting of the work group, which was held on August 21, 2018. He discussed the three panels that were held at the meeting, which included a student panel, a suicide prevention panel, and a threat assessment panel. Secretary Qarni discussed the takeaways from these panels and the subsequent discussion.

VI. Upcoming Meetings and Dates

Connor Andrews informed the Children’s Cabinet of the dates of upcoming meetings that had already been determined, and which meetings still needed to be set.

VII. Public Comment

First Lady Northam opened the floor to public comment. No members of the public provided any comments.

VIII. Adjournment

Members of the Children’s Cabinet were offered the opportunity to provide any closing remarks. Secretary Carey stated that he appreciated the work and collaboration of the Children’s Cabinet, and he expressed how honored he was to participate. First Lady Northam thanked the members of the Children’s Cabinet for their work and thanked the members of the public for engaging and participating in the Introductory Meeting of the Children’s Cabinet.

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 AM.